

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 25, 2003

MAYOR AND CHIEF ANNOUNCE INCREASE IN HOMICIDE REWARDS

Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey announced this past week an increase from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in the amount of the reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any unsolved homicide in DC. Officials hope that raising the reward amount will provide added incentive for individuals to come forward and provide vital information about open homicide cases, thereby increasing the possibility of solving more murders and bringing more offenders to justice. The money for the increased homicide rewards will come from MPDC's asset forfeiture funds. These are funds resulting from the confiscation of money or items such as cars or houses that were obtained through illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and gun trafficking. The new reward amount is being offered for any currently unsolved or future homicide committed in the District of Columbia. The reward will be paid to the individual person, or divided among multiple individuals, who provide vital information that is instrumental to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for a homicide. The determination as to who is eligible for the reward and how a reward may be divided will be made by the department's Superintendent of Detectives.

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2217>
- ① The April 6, 2003, triple homicide at the Colonel Brooks Tavern in Northeast provides one example of how the increase in the homicide reward is intended. The amount of the reward in this case is now \$75,000 because three homicides were committed.
- ① Some of DC's "Most Wanted" suspects are listed on the MPDC website at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/mostwanted/mostwanted.shtml>

DC TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT ON AUGUST 5

In honor of the event's 20th anniversary, the District of Columbia is planning to celebrate National Night Out in a big way this year. This annual celebration of crime prevention and police-community partnerships will be held on Tuesday, August 5. Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, US Attorney Roscoe Howard, McGruff the Crime Dog, and various other community, government and clergy leaders will officially kick off DC's celebration with a ceremony at 5 pm at Fort Stanton Recreation Center, 18th and Erie Streets, SE. Food, games, crime prevention information, child fingerprinting and other demonstrations will be provided. Across the District on the afternoon and evening of August 5, police and residents have events planned for National Night Out – ranging from block parties and cookouts to neighborhood walks and candlelight vigils. National Night Out has been bringing together police and communities for the past 20 years, and DC has been an active partner throughout. Last year, an estimated 33 million Americans participated in Night Out, including thousands in DC, which earned an award from the National Association of Town Watch for its 2002 celebration. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout and a stronger celebration this year.

Even if you can't attend an organized event on National Night Out, residents are still encouraged to turn on their exterior lights and spend some time outside, in a symbolic show of unity against crime.

- ① Read more about DC's celebration and learn about the Night Out events in your community by calling your local police district or by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno.shtml>
- ① Don't know which police district and PSA you live in? Click here to find out:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtml>
- ① For more information about the history and operations of National Night Out, visit their website at:
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html>

IN "OPEN LETTER," CHIEF RAMSEY THANKS THE COMMUNITY FOR ITS SUPPORT, PLEDGES EVEN STRONGER CRIME-FIGHTING EFFORTS

With his new contract signed to remain as chief of the MPDC for another four years and nine months, Chief Ramsey this week sent a letter to leaders of the DC community thanking them for their support and pledging to do everything possible to make DC an even safer and more livable city in the future. The Chief wrote, "I appreciate the strong support I have received from the Mayor, members of the DC Council, the community, and especially the men and women of the Metropolitan Police Department. In the coming months and years, I pledge to do everything humanly possible to continue to earn the trust you have placed in me. I also appreciate and respect the opinions of those who have criticized my performance as police chief. I will work tirelessly to gain the confidence of my detractors as well." The Chief also encouraged residents to come together – in a "partnership built on trust, respect, hard work and hope" – to fight crime in their neighborhoods. "Our success will not hinge on any one individual. Our success will be the result of a collective effort – a collective intolerance for crime and disorder in our communities, and a collective will to make positive and lasting change," the Chief wrote.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

Burglars can strike at almost any time and at almost any target. But they particularly like targets that look vulnerable. So if you're traveling on vacation this summer, make sure you take a few minutes to plan how to help keep your home and your possessions secure while you're away. The primary goal is to make your home look "lived in" (almost all burglars prefer homes where residents clearly aren't home). That means arranging to have your newspaper deliveries stopped and your mail collected by a trusted neighbor. If you're going to be away for a couple of weeks, it may be a good idea to have someone mow your lawn. It's probably best not to put your garbage cans out for pickup—or, alternatively, arrange to have a neighbor take in your can after the collection date. Empty trash cans left at the curb or in an alley for several days can be a sure-fire sign that no one's home. Inside, set timers to turn on lights—and even a radio or television—in various rooms at various times of the day. And don't change your voice mail message or your email reply to indicate that you are "out of town."

NEWS & NOTES

Smooth Operator Results. MPDC officers issued more than 5,300 citations for aggressive driving, and DC's photo enforcement cameras generated another 13,800 violations, during Wave II of the Smooth Operator program, June 22-28. To date, the MPDC has issued more than 35,000 tickets during the first two waves of Smooth Operator, with two more waves in July (20-26) and August (24-30).

ROC-North Open House. On July 30 at 6 pm, residents are invited to an open house at the new headquarters for the MPDC's Regional Operations Command-North, located in the old Petworth Elementary School, 801 Shepherd Street, NW. In addition to housing ROC-North administrative offices and other MPDC units, the newly refurbished building has community rooms, a youth activity center and a Safe Haven for kids. For details, call (202) 576-6600.

40 Days of Increased Peace. This summer-long crime prevention initiative targeting young people east of the Anacostia River wraps up next week with a "Going Away Party for Crime" at the Fort Stanton Recreation Center on July 31 and a pool party and closing ceremony at Anacostia Park on August 1. For details, call Monique Crawley, ROC-East, (202) 645-5333.

① Read the Chief's complete letter at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/07/072503.shtm>

① To learn what you and your neighbors can do to form or strengthen crime-fighting partnerships in your community, visit the Policing for Prevention pages at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/plp/together.shtm>

① Learn more burglary prevention tips that you can use throughout the year at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/burglary.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 7/25/03)

- 2003: 141
- 2002: 134
- % Change: +5.2%

Arrests (week ending 7/19/03)

- Total: 855
- Drugs: 113
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 20
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 32

Firearm Recoveries (as of 7/22/03)

- Total: 1,070
- July: 94

Traffic Fatalities (as of 7/25/03)

- 2003: 35
- 2002: 34
- % Change: +2.9%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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